

Littlemill
1772

LOWLAND SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY

THE
VANGUARDS
COLLECTION



CHAPTER ONE
ROBERT MUIR

THE VANGUARDS
COLLECTION

A TALE OF UNSUNG HEROES

Between Littlemill's founding and its lamentable closure, a remarkable story took place. It is one known only by those most deeply researched in the space, but its legacy stretches across the world of whisky.

It is a legacy defined by numerous pioneers and the quiet trailblazers at Littlemill's helm – a series of vanguards of their time, who were quietly overturning traditions, innovating with new technology and processes, and leaving an indelible mark on the distillery and its contemporaries. These unsung heroes passed into history long before the significance of their contributions could ever be applauded. However, their influence endures, with all their genius and craftsmanship distilled down into our last precious casks.

Drawing on the very last of Littlemill's oldest and rarest reserves, TheVanguards Collection is a true celebration of these remarkable individuals, offering a fortunate few a rare glimpse of the past.

Our first chapter in theVanguards Collection takes us back to where it all began... and the momentous words of the first licence, granted to Robert Muir of Littlemill, that would officiate the craft of whisky distilling for quite possibly the very first time.

CHAPTER
ONE
▼
ROBERT
MUIR



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AGED 45 YEARS



THE
VANGUARDS
COLLECTION
Robert Muir



- The first in an **annual, collectable four-part series** celebrating the pioneers and innovators that shaped Littlemill and the wider whisky industry. Each release will be undertaken with a **partner artist** and draw on Littlemill's **oldest reserves**, giving collectors a unique opportunity to own an incredible piece of whisky history
- Chapter 1 marks a celebration of Robert Muir and the first licence to distil on record, which would pave the way for all other distilleries to come, undertaken in collaboration with celebrated artist and calligrapher, Vic Lee.
- Bottled in handblown bespoke Glencairn crystal decanters, with **delicate cuts** that take their inspiration from traditional writing quills of the time, used to mark Robert Muir's name and licence into history.
- A glass portal in the cabinet door provides a window through time to a **unique handmade piece of original art** made by Vic Lee, who in his signature style has revived and re-imagined the original licence. Each of the 250 pieces is **individually numbered and hand signed** by Loch Lomond Group Master Blender, Michael Henry and Vic himself.
- Housed alongside each decanter and the artwork is a branded 50ml miniature a hardback book covering this incredibly special liquid and its history.
- Each bottle is presented in a handmade ash display cabinet, crafted by Loch Lomond Groups' most trusted carpenters and woodworkers.
- Bottled at **cask strength of 50.5% ABV and natural colour.**

ONLY 250 BOTTLES RELEASED WORLDWIDE,
FOR A VERY FORTUNATE FEW TO OWN



XLV
45 YEARS
 IN THE MAKING

Distilled on the 11th of October in 1977, this exceptional 45-year-old whisky came from Littlemill's patented straight-neck copper pot hybrid stills, designed by its engineers and scientists in the early 1900's.

The careful selection and finishing of this very special release embodies the true Littlemill character. It's intriguing to think that this whisky was chosen to be kept back *and gently matured thereafter in refill American Oak* for four decades, before being selected and re-casked for *a final five-year finish in first-fill Oloroso Sherry hogsheads*.

This traditional choice of finishing wood is meticulously documented in the distillery's records, and complements the delicate floral nature of this summertime, Lowland single malt whisky. Natural in colour and cask strength, *only 250 bottles of this rare piece of history exist... for a very fortunate few to own.*



NOSE

Honey, elderflower, pineapple, kiwi, roasted hazelnuts, cinnamon and nutmeg.

PALATE

Silk like mouthfeel, melted brown sugar, vanilla, crème brûlée, crisp apple, ripe pear, freshly squeezed lime juice, dried fruit – sultana and citrus peel.

FINISH

Long with notes of grilled grapefruit and sweet caramelised sugars, all balanced with sharp citrus.

KINDRED SPIRITS

THE LAST GUARDIAN

Today, one last custodian of the legacy of Littlemill remains: a guardian of the past traditions and innovations that set this rare single malt Scotch whisky apart.

During their final years of maturation, the casks that contained this exceptionally rare liquid were under the constant, personal supervision of our Master Blender, Michael Henry. *With over 30 years industry experience* and direct responsibility for all remaining Littlemill liquid, no one has a more erudite, intimate understanding of the character of the last remaining whisky of this lost distillery – and how to preserve it.



MICHAEL HENRY
 Master Blender

“Quite unlike anything else, Littlemill is a beautiful summer whisky, whose characteristics reveal gentle vanilla and floral notes on the nose, with the sweetness of honey and creamy fudge, accompanied on the palate by classic Lowland fresh fruits.

It's an entirely unique and very special character, which we work hard to preserve without compromise.”

“There is so much beauty in words and letters. I find it important to pay homage to something we use every day, often without thinking. My work is highly intricate, from fine penwork to elaborate hand-drawn murals. I like to think it evokes a memory, a thought, or a time.”

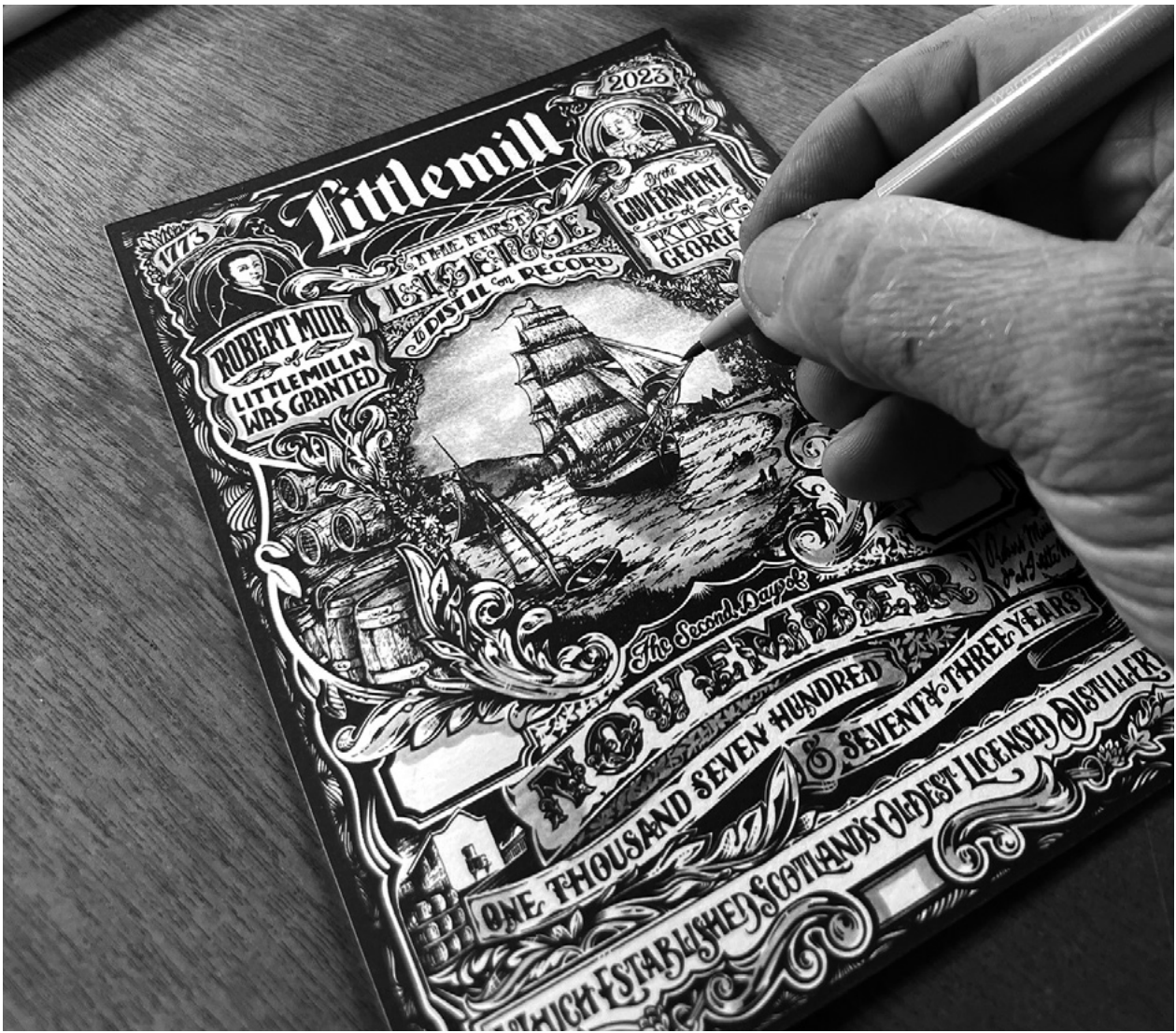
VIC LEE
 Artist

WHERE PAST MEETS PRESENT

Vic Lee is one of the United Kingdom's most celebrated artists. His signature style of black and white typography, decoration, scrollwork and illustration is loved by audiences across the globe.

Originally based out of his studio in South East London, formerly an old Victorian suitcase factory appropriately named Vanguard Court, Vic's style of work is much like Michael's, being a quite magical example of where the past meets the present. Today Vic travels around the world, creating murals of incredible scale and working with some of the world's most loved brands.





REVIVING THE PAST

Each unique piece of artwork is individually numbered and hand-signed by Vic Lee and Michael Henry.

“Working closely with Michael and the team, we sought to create something bespoke and unique that could accompany each individual bottle. The artwork needed to fully reflect and respect the original licence granted by the government of King George III to Littlemill in 1773. Through a detailed and time-consuming approach, I was able to draw upon the past using *traditional pinworm and printing methods*, while applying my own contemporary feel.

The artwork was originally fine, hand-penned ink work with hints to Littlemill’s special style of stills, warehousing and shipping on the Clyde, while adapting the original licence as a modern interpretation, yet retaining the importance of its original form.

Using traditional screen printing onto beautiful off-white cotton paper, each of the 250 pieces is then *individually hand finished in grey Indian ink* to create a sense of depth and emotion. A very time-consuming process, but I wanted to pay homage to the making of a fine whisky and the skills and crafts involved in each of the releases.

It’s an appreciation of art - and the art of making.” Vic Lee

Littlemill

THE FINAL LEGACY OF
SCOTLAND'S
OLDEST LICENCED
DISTILLERY

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